

Work Song

NAT ADDERLEY SEXTET

LIVE AT SWEET BASIL



7312-2

1 Work Song
Nat Adderley/Upam Music

2 High Fly
Randy Weston/Twenty Eight Street Music

3 In A Sentimental Mood
Duke Ellington/Mills Music Inc.

4 Jive Samba
Nat Adderley/Upam Music

NAT ADDERLEY (cornet)

SONNY FORTUNE (alto sax)

VINCENT HERRING (alto sax)

ROB BARGAD (piano)

WALTER BOOKER (bass)

JIMMY COBB (drums)

Produced by **HORST LIEPOLT & SHIGEYUKI KAWASHIMA**

Recorded Live at **SWEET BASIL**

Greenwich Village, New York May 12 & 13, 1990

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Recording Truck: **EFFANFL MUSIC, INC**

Mixed at **BACKPAGE Recording Studio, Tokyo, Japan May 22, 1990**

Mixing Engineer: **KAZUHIKO HORIOCHI**

Assistant Engineer: **HIRONOBU SUMI**

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MEL LITOFF, PHYLLIS WEISBART and HORST LIEPOLT,
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When one thinks of Nat Adderley one can't help but connect him to his classic signature piece, "Worksong." Yes, he is the composer of this great hit. Not only did he compose it, but his brother, Cannonball Adderley, played the piece and made both of them famous. Nat composed many other selections, including "Jive Samba" and "Sermonette." He is widely recognized as a very talented jazz composer.

Unfortunately, his brother Cannonball passed away, but Nat has managed to stay the course and has succeeded in making a comeback as a composer/performer.

Nat brought his own group to Japan last year and performed at various Jazz festivals. The tour was a big success. He's planning to come back to Japan in July for another series of concerts. Nat also keeps busy performing at various jazz clubs in New York. This album is a recording of a live concert at Sweet Basil, a highly acclaimed jazz club that ranks with the Village Vanguard and the Blue Note.

Because it is a live concert, the listener can easily feel the excitement throughout this album. It is also a typical live jazz concert album because there are only 4 songs. Nevertheless, each selection is sustained with an excitement and intensity that can only be generated by a playing to a live audience.

The Cannonball brothers' jazz style has been labeled as "soul jazz" or "funky jazz." "Work Song" aptly typifies this form by taking the style of a spiritual and infusing it with soul as it is translated into a modern jazz motif.

"Work Song" originally was composed as an instrumental piece, and it was a hit. Lyrics were later added by Oscar Brown, Jr., and through Nina Simon's version, the song became a vocal hit as well. Because of its popularity, the song has been used in two different commercials for Japanese TV. The first one was Nat Adderley's instrumental hit and the second was Oscar Brown, Jr.'s vocal version.

Nat is from Tampa, Florida. By nature he is a happy-go-lucky type. His performances have been a reflection of his personality through the years. During the 50's and 60's Nat performed with Cannonball constantly. They created their trademark funky jazz style with such great hits as "Work Song" and "Jive Samba." The two brothers complemented each other well. With Nat's backing and support of Cannonball, the group maintained a good sense of balance. This was the secret of their success. But after Cannonball's death, Nat began expressing himself more vividly, including his choice of members in the sextet.

Cannonball played the alto sax when the duo played together and Nat has added an alto sax as an integral part of the group. A young alto sax player, Vincent Harling, is quite good. He is a very talented musician and is very well-spoken of. He has a clear sound, and yet is a very stylish player—it seems as if he sounds a little bit like the late Cannonball (is it my imagination?). There is an additional alto sax player in this recording. His name is Sonny Fortune, a seasoned player who's been performing since the 70's. When Cannonball came to Japan, he too had additional players—an oboe player (Yusef Latif) along with two other sax players. Nat played cornet then as he does in this recording.

The members of this recording are:

Nat Adderley	cornet
Sonny Fortune	alto sax
Vincent Harling	alto sax
Rob Baggard	piano
Walter Booker	bass
Jimmy Cobb	drums

Recorded on May 12, 13, 1990 at Sweet Basil, New York.

Nat Adderley was born in Tampa, Florida on November 25, 1931. He is three years younger than Cannonball. He sang in a Gospel choir as a boy. He received his main musical training from his brother and started playing the trumpet and the cornet in 1946. He began concentrating on the cornet around 1950. He formed a funky jazz group in 1956, but this ended prematurely. They formed another group in 1959 which succeeded and became popular with hits like "This Here," "Work Song," "Jive Samba," and "Tingo Tango" and the group became established.

As a cornet player, Nat was influenced by Dizzy Gillespie and Clark Terry. He is a brilliant player. His muted playing style is very tastefully done, somewhat reminiscent of Miles Davis. Among his contemporaries in the jazz field he has tremendous respect for Quincy Jones (Nat's song "Sermonette" reminds one a little of Q.J). Nat also has a keen interest in Latin American music. He performed several years ago in "Salsa Meets Jazz" at the Village Gate.

ABOUT THE PIECES

1. "WORK SONG"

Composed by Nat Adderley, this is perhaps his best-known piece, first becoming popular with Nat and Cannonball's instrumental group. It became popular again when the lyrics were added by Oscar Brown, Jr. Aside from Nina Simon's singing this song, Oscar sang it himself on another recording. In Japan this song became even more popular when it was used in a couple of TV commercials. Nat took his inspiration for this composition from the southern slaves' spirituals, rendering it in the form of a song sung to accompany one's work.

Since this is a live performance, the theme runs through the piece with power and emotion. Not only is Nat's cornet playing impressive, but so also is Vince Harling's alto sax playing. This talented, promising young musician brings color and creativity to the sextet's performance. Sonny Fortune and Rob Baggard's solos are significant contributions to this unbeatably famous and popular piece.

2. "HIGH FLY"

This is an original piece by Randy Watson. In the field of jazz arrangements it is a very popular piece. Rob leads off with the theme, then Nat's solo cornet work takes the reins. In June I had an opportunity to listen to Vincent Harling in "Bradley's" in New York, and I admired his performance there. He doesn't disappoint in this selection. Nat's cornet sound is seasoned, and both Rob and Fortune's performances are noteworthy.

3. "IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD"

This piece is by Duke Ellington and was often played by Johnny Hodges. This rendition is highlighted by a soulful and expressive performance on the alto sax. Since Cannonball was one of the most talented alto sax players, Nat's choice for the solo was obviously very carefully made. Sonny Fortune exceeds expectations with his emotional performance.

4. "JIVE SAMBA"

In the early 60's the jazz world imported samba and bossa-nova (Brazilian musical styles) and created a new trend. Nat composed this piece with a samba rhythm blended with soulful jazz. This is a humorous eight-beat samba and is fun to listen to.

Nat also composed another piece, "Tingo Tango," which also has a nice Latin feel.

"Jive" (Harlem swing) is a word coined by Cab Calloway in the '30s. Jive talk signifies a brand of Harlem slang speech. After being dormant for a while, "jive" experienced a revival in England in the '80s. This piece has a series of brilliant solos: one from the cornet, and others from the alto sax and the piano. Although this is an old piece it is still new and fresh to our ears.

YOZO IWANAMI



NAT ADDERLEY

1. WORK SONG 10:32 2. HIGH FLY 12:53
3. IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD 10:40 4. JIVE SAMBA 10:48



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